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Fishery Leaflet 413

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COMMON OR LOCAL NAMES OF COMMERCIAL FISH AND SHELLFISH OF ALASKA

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Many species of Alaskan fishes are known by different names in different localities. In some instances, the same fish may be known by several names in the same locality. This confusion of common names often creates problems in the orderly marketing of Alaskan fishes both in Alaska and in the continental United States.

Leading biologists and taxonomists do not always agree on the proper common names for an animal or plant. For positive identification they rely on the scientific name, which is always in Latin. Reference to the list of Alaskan fishes below will make it very obvious that the layman--the fisherman, the wholesaler, the retailer, or the housewife--would be even more confused than now if suddenly the Latin rather than the common or English names were used in the markets.

One of the long-range major objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Service is to standardize, as much as possible, the many local names now in use for American fishes. The purpose of this leaflet is to compile the names given each species of Alaskan fish so that reference to the list will provide producers and marketers with a common denominator of understanding regarding each species under consideration.

The list of suggested common names has been checked against various published papers on the fisheries of the Pacific Coast. In addition, it has been reviewed by personnel of the Service and the Alaska Department of Fisheries.

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Suggested Common Name	Other Common Names	Scientific Name
Atka mackerel		Pleurogrammus monopterygius
Cod	Pacific cod, Codfish, Gray cod, True cod	Gadus macrocephalus
Dolly varden trout	Dolly, Arctic char, Salmon trout, Bull trout	Salvelinus malma spectabilis
Eulachon	Hooligan, Ooligan, Smelt, Candlefish, Needlefish	Thaleichthys pacificus
Flounder:		
Arrow-toothed flounder	Arrow-toothed halibut, Arrow-toothed sole, Longjaw flounder, Bastard halibut, Turbot	Atheresthes stomias
Dover sole	Slime flounder, Slime sole, Slippery flounder, lemon sole	Microstomus pacificus
English sole[1/]	Lemon sole, Pointed-nose sole	Parophrys vetulus
Flathead sole	Flathead flounder, Jowl, Paper sole	Hippoglossoides elassodon
Lemon sole	Lemon flounder, Alaska plaice	Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus
Petrale sole[2/]		Eopsetta jordani
Rex sole	Witch sole, Long-fin sole	Glyptocephalus zachirus
Rock sole	Rock flounder, Roughback sole, Rough sole	Lepidopsetta bilineata
Sand sole	Sand flounder	Psettichthys melanostictus
Starry flounder	Roughback sole, Grindstone, Emerywheel	Platichthys stellatus
Yellowfin sole	Yellowfin flounder, Northern sole, Mud dab, Alaska dab	Limanda aspera
Hake	Whiting	Merluccius productus
Halibut		Hippoglossus stenolepis
Herring	Pacific herring, Kodiak herring	Clupea pallasi
Kelp greenling	Kelp cod, Rock trout, Kelp trout	Hexagrammos decagrammus
Lake trout	Mackinaw trout	Salvelinus (=Cristivomer) namaycush
Lingcod	Ling, Blue cod, Cultus cod, Buffalo cod, Greenling	Ophiodon elongatus
Pollock	Alaska pollock, Walleye pollock, Hake, Whiting	Theragra chalcogramma
Ratfish		Hydrolagus colliei

1/ Lemon sole in British Columbia, Canada
2/ Brill in British Columbia, Canada

Suggested Common Name	Other Common Names	Scientific Name
Rockfish:		
Black rockfish	Black bass, Sea bass	Sebastodes melanops and several other species
Pacific ocean perch		Sebastodes alutus
Red rockfish	Red snapper, Alaska red snapper, Red rock cod, Red cod	Sebastodes ruberrimus and several other species
Sablefish	Black cod, Sable, Coal fish, Skilfish	Anoplopoma fimbria
Salmon:		
Chum salmon	Dog salmon, Keta salmon	Oncorhynchus keta
King salmon	Chinook salmon	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha
Pink salmon	Humpback salmon, Humpy salmon	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha
Red salmon	Sockeye salmon, Alaska red salmon	Oncorhynchus nerka
Silver salmon	Coho salmon	Oncorhynchus kisutch
Shark:		
Grayfish	Dogfish	Squalus suckleyi
Sleeper shark	Mud shark, Greenland shark	Somniosus microcephalus
Soupfin shark		Galeorhinus galeus
Sheefish	Inconnu, Cheetfish, Cony, Yukon char, Yukon salmon	Stenodus leucichthys mackenzi
Steelhead trout	Salmon trout, Sea run rainbow	Salmo gairdneri
Tomcod	Frost fish	Microgadus proximus
Whitefish		Coregonus species
Crustaceans		
Crab:		
Dungeness crab		Cancer magister
Korean horse crab	Horse crab, Hairy crab	Erimacrus isenbecki
King crab	Alaska king crab, Spider crab	(Paralithodes camtschatica (Paralithodes platypus*
Tanner crab	Spider crab	Chionoectes opilio
Shrimp:		
Coon-stripe shrimp		Pandalus hypsinotus
Humpy shrimp		Pandalus goniurus
Pink shrimp		Pandalus borealis
Side-stripe shrimp		Pandalopsis dispar
Spot shrimp	Prawn	Pandalus platyceros

* P. camtschatica is the species primarily taken in the commercial fishery. P. platypus is found from the northern Bering Sea northward and is taken in small quantity in the Nome area for the local market.

Suggested Common Name	Other Common Names	Scientific Name
Mollusks		
Abalone		Haliotis kamtschatkana
Clam:		
Butter clam		Saxidomus giganteus
Cockle		Cardium corbis
Little neck clam	Steamer	Paphia staminea
Razor clam		Siliqua patula
Pacific oyster	Japanese oyster	Crassostrea gigas
Octopus	Devilfish	Polypus bimaculatus
Scallop:		
Bay scallop		Pecten hindsi
Giant scallop		Pecten caurinus
Rock scallop	Rock oyster, Purple hinge scallop	Hinnites giganteus

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